Atlanta Writers Club - founded 1914, we are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

July 15 - AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at Duluth Public Library (GSU-Dunwoody is closed for the summer) for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

Kim Conrey & Patrick Scullin: Marketing for Writers - You Don't Have to Spend a Fortune, but You Do Have to Invest in Yourself
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Speakers at Our Next Meeting

Cover Art

The cover theme for 2023 is “Famous Authors.” The images are computer generated drawings (AI), so it may be slightly more difficult to recognize than a photo. Can you guess who the author is this month? If not, you’ll find the answer somewhere in this edition of eQuill. Good luck. Neither the authors on the cover nor their books are intended as an endorsement by the AWC, its officers, or its members.

Gene Bowen, eQuill Publisher.

Stay Connected to AWC

AWC Officers

President: Jill Evans
Executive Director: George Weinstein
Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors

George Weinstein
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Treasurer: Jerry Weiner
Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Register Now for the Next Atlanta Writers Conference:
Nov. 3-4, 2023
The Happy Place

Other than the woods behind my childhood home where I romped at will, my childhood happy place was Hobgood Palmer Memorial Library in Fairburn. I roamed the children’s shelves and came out with a couple of books every two weeks. My mother checked out a heaping stack full. I remember summer trips to the library offering that shock of icy air conditioning and the possibility of entering another world through the mind. I hope you had a similar place where the rhythm of your summer could slow and the imagination wander.

Confession: I don’t make the time to visit my local Sharpsburg library as often as I should. I’ve taken digital resources fully on board and now do much of my writing research via archives and libraries online. However, I am a board member of the Carnegie Library Foundation in Newnan and involved in programming, whether that’s bringing in authors or volunteering for children’s events like their annual Halloween trick or treat, where we give away hundreds of books to kids.

My deepest respect goes out to librarians across the world. They have adapted to changing needs and technology in ways my eight year old self could have never imagined. The coolest thing I saw then was a bin of records you could check out. Books, records and the occasional kid’s afternoon movie were all I needed. While I’d like to say that the same should satisfy any child or adult today – and it should – we live in a different world, one defined multi-dimensional programming and anywhere, anyhow access. Digital archives have been my bread and butter for novel research. I’ve been using the Kanopy app to watch amazing movies, and I just downloaded Hoopla and Libby for e-books and audio. These come to me courtesy of the library system.

In all of this, the most amazing thing is still the human interaction. For example, when I emailed for more information on a person I was researching, an archivist at Johns Hopkins remembered what I had looked for several years prior, even when I had forgotten.

Have you visited a library recently, or utilized their resources? One way to do so this summer is enjoy the hospitality of the Gwinnett County Library System as they host our summer meetings. When you come to the Duluth Branch for the July 15th Meeting you’ll notice not just our smiling faces, but that the place is hopping. The amazing facility and its lovely staff are waiting for you!

Not every community in Georgia has such a terrific library. Whether large or small, resource rich or poor, I challenge you and myself to visit your local library. Check out what they have to offer and get to know the staff. Take advantage of the resources, get involved, and you just might find yourself smiling like a kid again.

AWC President Jill Evans is a computer nerd by trade, website designer, photographer and writer. Her work in progress is a novel that combines her love of art, intrigue and history. You can follow her on Instagram at @jillevanswriter and find out more at www.jillevans.com.
June 17 Meeting Photos & Video

Link to meeting video shot and edited by Jorge Barboza

Meeting photos courtesy of Patrick Scullin

Link to Complete Set
July 15 AWC In-person Meeting

July 15, 12:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at Duluth Branch Library, 3180 Main St, Duluth, GA 30096 (Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C auditorium and café, is closed in July). (If you're not on our mailing list, use the form here to add yourself so you will get any updates about this meeting.)

This meeting may be recorded; if so, the recording link will be shared in the following month's eQuill newsletter.

12:45-1:30 p.m. Nosh and Networking Mixer for members and first-time visitors in the meeting room

1:30-1:45 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans

1:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Kim Conrey & Patrick Scullin: Marketing for Writers - You Don't Have to Spend a Fortune, but You Do Have to Invest in Yourself

4:00-4:15 p.m. Book signing for Kim Conrey & Patrick Scullin in the meeting room

**Publishing a book, whether traditional or self-published, is quite an accomplishment. However, as nearly any author will tell you, it’s simply the beginning of the journey. With little to no marketing behind it, many books will never sell beyond friends and family, and asking for marketing advice may point you in numerous directions with people saying this or that works but offering no hard data. Let’s demystify the book marketing experience and drill down to what really works and, most importantly, why. This will include things like Amazon ads, Facebook ads, BookBub, BookFunnel, Bookstagram, BookTok, newsletters, website/landing pages, and much more.**

**Kim Conrey** is the Georgia Author of the Year award-winner for her sci-fi romance novel *Stealing Ares*, the first in the Ares Ascending series, and the urban fantasy series The Wayward Saviors. Book One, *Nicholas Eternal*, was published in June 2023. Book Two of the Ares Ascending series, *Losing Ares*, will be released on October 12, 2023. When she's not working on her next book, you can find her trail running or cosplaying as a Box Hero Wonder Woman in Atlanta's Dragon Con Parade. She also writes about living with the misunderstood condition of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Her stories and essays have been published in regional and local press as well. In addition, she serves as VP of Operations for the Atlanta Writers Club and collaborates on the Wild Women Who Write Take Flight podcast. [Her website](http://www.kimconrey.com)

After selling his successful advertising company (ASO Advertising), **Patrick Scullin** has been writing for a demanding client—himself. His debut novel, *SAWDUST: Love is Wilder than a Circus*, was self-published, and he is seeking representation for two more books while writing three blogs. He is VP of Marketing for the Atlanta Writers Club. [His website](http://www.patrickscullin.com)
Member Book Launches & Accolades

AWC MEMBER H. W. “BUZZ” BERNARD’s latest historical novel, *DOWN A DARK ROAD*, is WWII historical fiction based on a true story, that of a young infantry lieutenant, Jim Thayer, and his platoon. At the end of the war in Europe they stumble into the very heart of darkness in western Austria—a Nazi death camp. The scenes are chilling and unforgettable, and Jim refused to talk about what he’d witnessed for decades after. But when he finally did, his tales become the basis of Buzz’s most recent novel.

PURCHASE LINK

H. W. “Buzz” Bernard is a bestselling, award-winning novelist. Three of his first five novels won EPIC eBook awards in the suspense/thriller category. His debut novel, *EYEWALL*, became a number-one bestseller in Amazon’s Kindle store. In 2020, with the publication of *WHEN HEROES FLEW*, Buzz switched from writing suspense/thriller novels to WWII historical fiction and began a new series. *WHEN HEROES FLEW* and *WHEN HEROES FLEW: THE SHANGRI-LA RADIERS* were each awarded a Gold Medal by the Military Writers Society of America. Buzz is a past president of the Southeastern Writers Association as well as a member (emeritus) of the Atlanta Writers Club, Willamette Writers, the Pacific Northwest Writers Association, the Military Writers Society of America, and International Thriller Writers. Although Buzz lived for 35 years in Atlanta, he now resides in Kennewick, Washington, with his new wife Barbara and their fuzzy Shih Tzu, Stormy . . . who doesn't live up to his name.

AWC VP OF OPERATIONS KIM CONREY’s urban fantasy/paranormal romance *Nicholas Eternal* was published on June 27. Nicholas Theodoulos is an immortal savior in desperate need of saving. All the power, wisdom, and even the favor of the gods is not enough when 1,700 years of heartache have left marks on his soul. But Noory Abramson, a streetwise woman with a sacred tattoo and a touch of grace, steps from the shadows, not knowing if she's arrived in time to save him or end him for good. With a heart grown as heavy as his, either fate might do. When Noory observes Nick grieving over the body of a young girl in a deserted Atlanta alley, she isn't sure whether he is friend or foe. However, she quickly realizes his special powers to rescue children and rain down vengeance on those that harm them may be the only thing that can help her when one of her charges, sixteen-year-old Grace, goes missing from the local homeless shelter. Soon, Nick discovers Noory has secrets of her own: one that might lead him to redemption, and possibly love, for the first time in his painful existence. In their world, a gift looks a lot like a curse, and Noory must reach Nick before his gift consumes him.

PURCHASE LINK

Kim Conrey is the author of the sci-fi romance series Ares Ascending and the urban fantasy series The Wayward Saviors. She’s also the recipient of the Georgia Author of the Year Award for Romance. When she's not working on her next book, you can find her trail running or cosplaying as a Box Hero Wonder Woman in Atlanta's Dragon Con Parade. She also writes about living with the misunderstood condition of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Her stories and essays have been published in regional and local press as well. In addition, she serves as VP of Operations for the Atlanta Writers Club and collaborates on the Wild Women Who Write Take Flight podcast.
AWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GEORGE WEINSTEIN, writing as GJ Weinstein, has published a satirical “pre-apocalyptic” sci-fi comedy titled Offlining. Twenty-year-old Jerusalem (Jeru) Pix virtually lives in the virtual worlds he loves until his high school crush asks him to do a teeny, tiny favor: stop her brother from becoming the next cult-inspired suicide bomber to target the wealthiest one percent. He soon discovers that offlining—giving up the online world for reality, where the graphics aren’t great, nobody can fly, and everything hurts—is gritty and downright deadly. Worse, there are no do-overs, save points, or bathroom breaks. Along the way, Jeru will switch bodies twice, battle homicidal robot vacuum cleaners and an evangelical suicide cult dubbed the PentaHostiles, and, maybe scariest of all, fall in love.

PURCHASE LINK

George Weinstein is the author of a diverse range of other novels, including the beloved Southern historical novel *Hardscrabble Road*; its 2022 sequel, *Return to Hardscrabble Road*; the novel of forgotten U.S. history *The Five Destinies of Carlos Moreno*; the domestic drama of reinvention *The Caretaker*; the amateur-sleuth murder mystery *Aftermath*, and the kidnapping thriller *Watch What You Say*. [His website is here.](#) He also is the Executive Director of the Atlanta Writers Club and has helped thousands of writers on their quest for publication through the Club and the twice-yearly Atlanta Writers Conference, which he has managed for 15 years.

Who was the first person to write a novel entirely on a typewriter?
Dates: October 13-15

Location: Kennedy Creek Resort, Suches, GA

Open to all current members of the Atlanta Writers Club

Every writer needs to get away from the demands of life and have time for yourself to write in a relaxing setting, experience nature at the peak of autumnal beauty, enjoy the company of other writers, and recharge. The AWC Retreat at Kennedy Creek Resort in Suches, GA, provides all that and much more.

Suches, “The Valley Above the Clouds,” is just 80 miles north of Atlanta and offers renowned Blue Ridge Mountain scenery and outdoor activities galore, including hikes to Sea Creek Falls, the Chattahoochee Forest, and the famous Appalachian Trail. The Kennedy Creek Resort boasts 40 acres of woods, creeks, trails, and even its own airstrip.

During your retreat, in addition to relaxing in the fresh mountain air and getting the chance to write in a peaceful new environment, you will also experience two evenings of live musical entertainment, an open mic opportunity to share your writing, a keynote talk by award-winning author Ann Hite, famous for her Black Mountain novels, and three hours of panel discussions and Q&A about writing with AWC Executive Director George Weinstein and the Wild Women Who Write: Kim Conrey, Lizbeth Jones, and Kathy Nichols.

The cost of $218.91 includes:
- Meals: Friday night dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast
- Educational talks by Ann Hite, George Weinstein, and the Wild Women Who Write: Kim Conrey, Lizbeth Jones, and Kathy Nichols
- Live musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights
- Open mic on Saturday night

For complete details and registration via Eventbrite click here.

In addition to the $218.91, registrants will be responsible for booking their own lodging through the Kennedy Creek Resort website. There are economical options including bunkhouses, yurts, campgrounds with RV parking, and a dormitory.

We’re looking forward to offering our members the chance to get away during the peak of autumn for writing, recharging, and relaxing in the mountains!
Roswell Reads, a program of Friends of the Roswell Library, in partnership with Roswell Cultural Arts and Bookmiser, presents

William Kent Krueger speaking about his latest novel, *The River We Remember*

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Roswell Cultural Arts Center
950 Forrest Street, Roswell, GA

A complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of midcentury American life. *The River We Remember* is an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about home.

**William Kent Krueger** is the New York Times bestselling author of *This Tender Land*, *Ordinary Grace*, and the original audio novella *The Levee*, as well as 19 acclaimed books in the Cork O’Connor mystery series, including *Lightning Strike* and *Fox Creek*.

Tickets are $20 (plus $2.50 handling fee) and available online at roswellcac.showare.com/WilliamKentKrueger, by calling 770-594-6232, or at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center.

To pre-order books, contact Bookmiser @770-509-5611 or WKK Book Order

Roswell Reads is sponsored by Friends of the Roswell Library and supported by the City of Roswell, Friends of the East Roswell Library, Fulton County Library System and Roswell Rotary Club.
Roswell Reads, a program of Friends of the Roswell Library, in partnership with Roswell Cultural Arts, Bookmiser and Atlanta Writers Club, presents a

WRITING WORKSHOP

with

William Kent Krueger

THE RIVER WE REMEMBER

William Kent Krueger

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023 at 10 a.m.
Roswell Adult Recreation Center
830 Grimes Bridge Road, Roswell, GA

William Kent Krueger is the New York Times bestselling author of This Tender Land, Ordinary Grace (winner of the Edgar Award for best novel), and the original audio novella, The Levee, as well as 19 acclaimed books in the Cork O'Connor mystery series, including Lightning Strike and Fox Creek.

This master class is a unique opportunity to attend an exclusive, in-person conversation with him and George Weinstein, Executive Director of the Atlanta Writers Club. Krueger will discuss writing his latest mystery, The River We Remember, his personal creative process and writing discipline. Audience questions will be welcomed.

Tickets are $13.50 (plus a $1.50 handling fee) and available online at roswellcac.showare.com/WritingWorkshopwithWilliamKentKrueger by calling 770-594-6232, or at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center.

To pre-order books, contact Bookmiser @770-509-5611 or WKK BOOK ORDER.
Some writers entering the query trenches might be puzzled by a visual aid called a mood board that compliments the query, synopsis, and writing sample traditionally sent to potential agents. Mood boards are especially popular on visually-friendly social media sites such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, where they pop up on writer/agent threads like #MSWL (Manuscript Wish List, a site for agents to post what they want in a book, not for writers to plug their work, which doesn’t stop a lot of blissfully oblivious writers from doing so and pissing off the rest of us).

Mood boards began as a way for graphic designers, interior decorators, and their clients to get an idea of the kind of atmosphere they wanted to create. This filtered into the publishing realm, as writers raised in a more visual age started using mood boards to pitch their manuscripts.

For those who think they can hustle their books using just words because, well, that’s what books are made of, mood boards can be somewhat irritating. Then again, who doesn’t secretly want to have to generate even more crap when pushing a manuscript?

Some writers might say that mood boards are another waste of time in the slow, grueling, masochistic trudge of trying to get published, but more fool they! Mere words can't convey a book's ineffable qualities, so if you lack a mood board to explain those ineffable qualities, you’re effed.

Therefore, here is a short explanation of how mood boards work, by someone who loves loves loves how they are helping us evolve from mere word people into post-verbal visual people. Because when it comes down to it, mood boards are absolutely amazing! It’s not like they make me want to scream, oh no, but if I did, you can bet I’d scream out mood boards!

Here is a fairly typical mood board:

You must pay close attention to each picture in order to unlock the ineffables expressed therein. Moving horizontally from top left to right bottom, this mood board presents a world where:

1. A gorgeous blond eats roses—not the brightest thing to do, but sexy.
2. Money. Because we like it.
3. Look, the Eiffel Tower! We’re either in Paris or Las Vegas.
4. Either marriage is on the horizon, or it’s a ring some kid got in a vending machine.
5. The lovers are looking at what is either a Monet or another fiery toxic train derailment in Ohio, making this either France or the hearty but poisonous Midwest. Choose your own adventure!
6. Glasses of either champagne or flammable brown tap water from Flint, Michigan. Looks flat and brown, which indicates the Midwest.
7. A cobblestone street. So maybe France after all? Or maybe some impoverished East European country where everyone eats raw onions and trades marriageable daughters for stout donkeys. In fact, the “cobblestones” look a lot like a close-up of some poor babushka’s dry skin. They exfoliate with blowtorches in those small Eastern European villages. It rarely ends well.
8. More money, because reading this novel will make you RICH!
9. A dude thinking, “If only I could find a beautiful woman dumb enough to eat roses in order to satisfy my rose fetish. That would be really hot. Would definitely lead to a HEA.”

So, you now understand the ineffable qualities of the particular book being pitched.

All right, it’s your turn. What does this mood board say to you?:

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I'm in the Mood Board for Love

By Karla Jennings
If the ineffables told you that this story is about a CAT scan of a radioactive liver that turns people into electrically charged supermodels with titanium blue skin that breaks out in pimples made of gold, forcing them to wear coats and gloves whenever they shake hands with stretchy supermodels who never wash their hands despite being demure pre-Raphaelite lasses who awkwardly shave their necks with blades so that they won’t be attacked by hawks, you’re right!

That wasn’t so hard now, was it?

Okay, this last one’s a gimme, but don’t blab out the answer if you’ve already guessed it, because some of us like to figure things out for ourselves:

Dirty hands again (so many of these mood boards show lousy basic hygiene) … gorgeous face … crow wing … sexy mermaid with a Kardashian-sized butt … naked supermodel wearing windy gauze by the sea … a sexy crow-man wearing a snappy hat and smoking Marlboros … a kneeling woman tied to a wall, ready for a little B&D fun.

The ineffable analysis tells us that the main character doesn’t wash her hands because she’s a mermaid, so her hands are constantly being washed in the ocean where she lives, duh. She’s into not only crows, but guys who wear crow costumes and smoke Marlboros and do gauzy bondage S&M. Definitely another HEA.

If you guessed that this is the original mood board for Hans Christian Anderson’s *The Little Mermaid*, you’re right! As you can see, mood boards capture so much more than what mere words can express.

*Karla Jennings’ hobbies include walking barefoot on sharp stones, sticking pins under her fingernails, rubbing lemon juice in her eyes, and trying to find a literary agent. It hurts, but she can’t stop doing it.*
Lorin Oberweger 2023 Webinar Series

Lorin Oberweger is a highly sought-after independent book editor and ghostwriter with almost thirty years’ experience in publishing. Her company, Free Expressions, offers intensive, deep craft workshops nationwide. She’s also known for her one-on-one story mastermind session for writers of all genres of fiction and creative nonfiction.

Lorin’s students and clients have been published by HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, Simon and Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Disney, and many other presses. They have also gained representation with some of the industry’s leading literary agents and several have had work optioned for film and television.

An award-winning author, Lorin has co-written and ghostwritten eight books, several for New York Times bestselling authors of fiction and nonfiction. Her work, commissioned by major publishers, has received glowing notices from the New York Times, Kirkus Reviews, NPR, and others. Her latest co-author credit is THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY TED TALK, written with Chris Anderson, director of TED Conferences.

With bestselling author Veronica Rossi, Lorin is the author of the New Adult books, BOOMERANG, REBOUND, and BOUNCE, published by Harper/William Morrow under the pen name Noelle August. The novels were praised by Publishers Weekly and Library Journal, among others, and BOOMERANG was chosen as a “new and notable” selection for Target Stores across the US.

In 2023, Lorin will present a quarterly webinar series with critiques, exclusively for the Atlanta Writers Club, via Zoom, open to all current members of the Atlanta Writers Club. To register for participation in this series, please email AWC Executive Director George Weinstein with your request to receive the Zoom link each quarter. A quarterly recording will be made available to all who register. If you also want to receive a manuscript sample critique from Lorin, please see the instructions further down.

STORY 360 WITH LORIN OBERWEGER
A Comprehensive Four-part Workshop for Creating Successful Fiction

PART ONE: JANUARY 18, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN

Recording available. AWC members can contact Executive Director George Weinstein for link.

PART TWO: APRIL 12, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN

Deep Dive Into Scene Structure: Going Beyond The Basics To Create Shapely, Resonant Scenes

PART THREE: JULY 19, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN

Holding The River: On Pacing And Voice

Effective pacing, like voice, can sometimes be an “I’ll know it when I feel it” proposition, but there ARE practical considerations in creating an efficient narrative flow—while expressing the personality of one’s viewpoint character or characters.

In this generative workshop, we’ll look at the issues of when to use exposition and when to employ more observable dramatic action; what kinds of scenes demand to be slowed down and savored and what scenes can be dispensed with more quickly; when—and if—we need aftermath or sequel scenes; and how to get a handle on the overall pacing of our novels, creating a sense of escalation and stronger drive as we move toward our story’s climax. We’ll also work on deepening and sharpening narrative voice, to make the expression of your story one of its key strengths.

PART FOUR: OCTOBER 18, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN

The End Is The Beginning (With Bonus Emotional Query And Revision Content)
As writers, we're often guilty of noodling around with our story openings FOREVER, but what about our endings?

In this generative workshop, we'll talk about—and play with writing—story endings that serve as a powerful target for the rest of your narrative. We'll ask ourselves what makes for a potent and resonant ending. Other topics covered will include how to weave all of your plot threads and plot lines together and how to decide on the order for doing so; how to decide on last images/last lines; how to bring things full circle from your opening; how to avoid disappointing the reader; and how to clarify and underscore your protagonist's emotional journey at story's end.

We'll also look at maximizing our revision process and creating query letters that express not just the mechanics of our stories but the beating heart behind the words.

Black Writers Weekend

AUGUST 3 - 6, 2023
SUMMERS IN ATLANTA ARE LIT

LINK
Following his January meeting presentation at GSU, professional screenwriter and professor of screenwriting Michael Lucker returns for a quarterly webinar series offered exclusively to AWC members. This is a free member benefit.

On Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. Eastern, Michael will take you on a deep dive into the process of adapting your book into a screenplay.

To register for Michael's quarterly webinar series, AWC members are encouraged to reply to this email. AWC Executive Director George Weinstein will confirm your spot. If you need to join or renew so you can take advantage of this free member benefit, CLICK HERE.
A Novel Idea Event – July 25

Atlanta’s Philanthropic Writing Couple

BOOK LAUNCH

KIM CONREY

TUESDAY
JULY 25, 2023
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Brimstone
Restaurant & Tavern
10595 Old Alabama Rd
Alpharetta, GA 30022

V.P. of Operations

GEORGE WEINSTEIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KIM CONREY is the author of the sci-fi romance series Ares Ascending and the urban fantasy, NICHOLAS ETERNAL, Book One of the Wayward Saviors.

GEORGE WEINSTEIN is the award-winning author of HARDSCRABBLE ROAD and its sequel RETURN TO HARDSCRABBLE ROAD (winner of the Literary Titan Book Award).

Link to RSVP for this free event
ANI announces an exciting collaboration with the AWC, inviting any AWC member to launch a new or recent book at an ANI Author Showcase Event.

ANI will provide:

- A welcoming venue where friends, family, and fans can attend your talk and signing.
- Promotional assistance reaching 6,500+ supporters, together with print and online articles.
- Shared videotaped presentations as available.
- Professional assistance, as needed, for presentations.

**Author Indication of Interest**

Interested? Please send completed info to anovelidea.authorshowcase@gmail.com

YOUR NAME: ___________________________ EMAIL: ___________________________

TITLE OF BOOK: ___________________________ ISBN: ___________________________

GENRE: ___________________________ YOUR WEBSITE: ___________________________

PLANNED RELEASE DATE: ___________________________ PUBLISHER: ___________________________

PUBLISHER CONTACT: ___________________________ QUERY LETTER: Please attach.

Bookmiser coordinates all ANI book sales utilizing the following criteria:

- Bookmiser purchases books from Ingram Content Group if the books are listed as:
  - Returnable.
  - Wholesale priced as REG (= 40% discount off the retail price).
- Bookmiser purchases books from the author if the above criteria are not met. In such cases, the author provides the books for the event. Bookmiser handles sales. At the end of the evening, Bookmiser pays the author 60% of the retail price (set by the author) for all books sold, pays all applicable sales tax, and reports sales to NYT and ABA.

**WEBSITE LINK**
Meet the Author Prince Shakur  
Wednesday, July 5 | 7 pm | Virtual  
Prince Shakur, an award-winning author, will discuss his new book *When They Tell You To Be Good*. His debut memoir delves into his self-realization through examinations of place, childhood, queer identity, and a history of uprisings.

Meet Bestselling Author Lisa See  
Saturday, July 8 | 7:30 pm | Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center  
Enjoy an evening with New York Times bestselling author Lisa See on her book tour for her new historical novel, *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women*. This is a ticketed event.

Meet Children’s Authors Kahran & Regis Bethencourt  
Saturday, July 15 | 11 am | Duluth Branch  
Meet the authors and founders of CreativeSoul Photography, Kahran and Regis Bethencourt for a talk about their new book *Crowned*, which encourages the imagination of young children. Books available for sale and signing.

Writers’ Workshop with the Atlanta Writers Club  
Saturday, July 15 | 12:45 pm | Duluth Branch  
Atlanta Writers Club officers Kim Conrey and Patrick Scullin will present "Marketing for Writers." Even if you haven't finished your first book, you can start applying these lessons to create a website, build your mailing list, send newsletters, and much more.

DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS:  
WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
I hired ChatGPT as my writing coach

By Audrey Kalman

On April 7, frustrated with my progress on a third full revision and still dancing around my novel’s central story question, I typed the following into my ChatGPT account.

Me: I am struggling with defining the one central thing my novel (currently in draft form) is about. Can you help me figure this out?

In roughly a millisecond, ChatGPT responded:

Of course, I’d be happy to help! Can you provide me with some more information about your novel? What genre is it, what is the general plot, and who are the main characters? This information will help me understand your story better and assist you in defining the central theme or idea.

I provided a short, rough synopsis. Seconds later, ChatGPT returned several paragraphs summarizing what I had provided and offering a possible theme: “The struggle to reconcile tangible and intangible aspects of reality, and the transformative power of belief in the unknown.”

Okay, that’s actually two themes.

Were either of them really what I’m going for? I’m not yet sure. But in a few minutes, ChatGPT had cleared the fog that often results from being too close to your own work and gave me a starting place for refinements. As I write this, a little more than a month after my first interaction with ChatGPT, I have a revised outline, an entire new story line for one of the characters, and a clear direction for my revision.

To read the rest of this post, click here
2023 Moonlight & Magnolias Conference

October 12 - 14, 2023: Evergreen Lakeside Resort

Since its inaugural event in 1982, The Georgia Romance Writers Moonlight & Magnolia Writing Conference has a long-established tradition of supporting and developing writers of all levels. Whether you’re new to writing or established, there’s something at M&M for everyone. Writers of all genres are welcomed, respected, and encouraged.

Their 41st conference will be held at the Evergreen Lakeside Resort from October 12-14, culminating with our 40th Maggies Awards Banquet on Saturday night, October 14.

The Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort offers beautifully appointed, spa-like rooms with balconies. Over 70% of the rooms include a lakeside view.

Their theme is GROWTH (Goal, Research, Outreach, Writer, Train, Hone).

Thursday, Oct 12 - half-day morning craft workshop
Thursday, Oct. 12 - half-day afternoon marketing workshop,
Thursday, Oct. 12 - movie night
Friday, Oct. 13 - workshops, vendor event
Friday, Oct 13 - editor & agent appointments
Saturday, Oct. 14 - workshops, Readers’ Afternoon Tea, The Maggie Awards Banquet

For complete details, click here
POETRY CHAPBOOK LAB: 2023-24 COHORT FORMING NOW!

Charlotte Lit’s Poetry Chapbook Lab is a year-long low-residency program designed to help you produce a cohesive, well-crafted, publication-ready chapbook manuscript of 12-20 poems (approximately 28 pages). The program combines monthly online workshopping, quarterly weekend intensives in Charlotte, and one-to-one mentorship by one of four award-winning poet faculty members. This year’s mentors are Nickole Brown, Stuart Dischell, Lola Haskins, and AE Hines. Applications are open until August 1. Learn more and register for an information session at charlottelit.org/chapbooklab.
By AWC Member Sameena Mughal

If you are looking for ways to give back, consider Shelters X Shelves rescue operating in the Atlanta area. Working closely with Cobb Country Animal Control, they focus on saving urgent shelter dogs who are at serious risk of being euthanized due to lack of space. The founders believe every dog deserves their “happily ever after,” and their story shouldn’t end at the shelter.

As a fully licensed rescue, they operate by donations. One of the ways they raise funds is through book donations that they sell through their online shop. If you have books you would like to donate, consider donating them to Shelters X Shelves!

Since Cobb County is over capacity, they are in urgent need of fosters. If you are willing to open your heart and home to a dog in need, please consider it. The dogs of Shelters X Shelves need you!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: DONATE

ADOPTION

FOSTER

SHOP
Jessica Brody, who writes the famous “Save the Cat” series, has an upcoming book - *Save the Cat Writes a YA Novel* – that has some great free offers if you preorder before July 18th.

If you pre-order from Amazon or a chain retailer, you get a free e-book companion and five bonus beat sheets. If you pre-order from an indie bookseller on the publisher’s list, you also get an offer to attend Jessica’s online plot-a-long workshop.

**Book Title:** *Save the Cat! Writes a Young Adult Novel*

**Release Date:** July 18, 2023

**Available Formats:** Paperback, eBook, Audiobook

**Official Hashtag:** #SavetheCatWritesaYANovel

**Preorder Offer Full Link** (best for Twitter and Facebook)

**Preorder Offer Short Link** (best for Instagram and TikTok)

**About the Book Page:**

*Cover Writers* Stephen King

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Atlanta Writers Club
For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages)--some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01-.05/word)--and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

The AWC maintains this directory in an effort to assist AWC members with editor options for consideration; however, the AWC does not endorse the individuals in this directory and is not liable for any member’s experiences with these editors.

BOBBIE CHRISTMAS
Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability
Email
Website

Fiction: Mainstream, science fiction, paranormal, romance, action adventure, fantasy, suspense/thriller, mystery, young adult, biographical novel, historical fiction, and more. Nonfiction: Memoir, biography, autobiography, self-help, travelogue, essays, and more.

When you hire me, you hire a professional with more than 50 years of experience. After 27 years of editing and writing newspapers, magazines, and corporate communications, I founded Zebra Communications in 1992 to specialize in editing fiction and nonfiction. You and your manuscript will be treated with kindness yet honesty. I’ve edited books for seven publishing houses, so I know what publishers and readers want. My services and pricing are listed on my website.

KAY HUNT
Email

Available for editing: Adventure, women’s fiction, fantasy, historical fiction

I have over 20 years in print production and graphics, proofreading annual reports, business brochures and related materials, catalogs, and advertising copy. I have six years of freelance experience proofreading/copy editing website pages and blogs for service industry businesses. Additionally, as a freelancer, I have copy-edited two novels as well as made some structural edits.

JUDITH KOLBERG
Email
Website

404-226-1381
Nonfiction Genres: lifestyle, health, business, personal growth, self-help, memoir, spiritual, inspiration, and narrative non-fiction.

I am an experienced developmental editor with fifteen years of experience bringing multiple authors to publication. I specialize in content editing which includes structure, clarity, interest, flow, segue, overall readability and other writing elements that make for a fantastic reader’s experience. Perfect for writers in need of a rigorous, honest, and compassionate first-reader or for authors at any level seeking a collaborative, effective editing process designed to fit their schedule and budget. Confidential ghost-writing services available.

JANIE MILLS
Email
Website

Available for editing: query letters, science fiction, memoir, Southern fiction, YA fantasy, sports fiction, apocalyptic, detective/crime fiction, soft erotica

I have a master’s degree in English (Creative Writing) and have been a full-time editor for three years. I believe in understanding an author’s voice and putting in the work to get it right. I am blessed with my editing talent and am pleased to offer affordable, yet professional, editing services.
CHRIS NEGRON

Email
Website

Available for query letter consults, developmental editing

Author of the middle grade novels Dan Unmasked (July 2020) and The Last Super Chef (July 2021), both from HarperCollins, available for editing novels of all genres, but with a particular focus on middle grade and contemporary fiction for adults and teens as well. Novel editing price proposed after review of sample chapter(s). Single-page query letter feedback available for $50/query.

STEPHANIE SIEGEL

Email
Website

Final editing available for nonfiction (especially health for general audiences).

I read literature and am trying to write it. But most of my career was spent writing newspaper articles (12 years) or editing them (12 years). My eagle eye for details such as unanswered questions, unsupported statements, and inconsistencies made me a valued copy editor at CNN.com, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, WebMD, and the CDC.

MARI ANN STEFANELLI

Email
Website

The Writer's High, LLC: Take your writing to a higher level with experienced, professional editing.

DAVE SWAN

Email
Linkedin

Nonfiction topics: Politics, defense, foreign affairs, crime and legal issues, education, taxes, music, film, humor, relationships, and writing about writing.

My experience: As a journalist and all-around communicator, I've edited news and information on a wide range of issues for audiences all over the world. One of my specialties is presenting complex subjects in plain, hard-hitting language. I can help you shape your story from the beginning or proofread your final draft. My goal is to make YOUR voice as powerful and compelling as it can be.

A.E. WILLIAMS

Email
Website

Genres I edit: fantasy, sci-fi, horror, thriller, screenplays, comic book scripts, memoir, and various nonfiction topics

Bio: My name is A.E. Williams. I run an editorial firm, A.E. Williams Editorial. My clients are oftentimes independent authors for which I perform copyediting, developmental editing, and line editing. I am also a freelance copyeditor with Hachette Book Group. If interested in working with me, please email a 1,000-word sample and I will complete it for free. In my response I will provide your edited sample, testimonials, rates, resume, and a list of recent projects.

If you are an AWC member, offer editing services, and want to add your information to this directory, please send an email to AWC Executive Director and Acting President George Weinstein with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your email address
3. Your website, if available
4. The fiction genres and/or nonfiction topics you have experience editing
5. A brief statement detailing your editing experience of 75 words or less
“VIRAL LITERATURE does what I'd always hoped the Decatur Book Festival would do... document the wild, glorious, and diverse abundance of talent that calls this region home. Together, these pieces tell the story of this place and time, but it also demonstrates the strength of this community of writers.”

~Daren Wang, Founder of the AJC Decatur Book Festival & Author of The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

The AWC’s Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia, is published by SFK Press. Viral Literature is a collection of the work of 32 of the top storytellers and poets in Georgia, ranging from the accomplished--Terry Kay (with his last published work before his passing), Janisse Ray, and Daniel Black--to talented emerging writers who are being published for the first time.

Twenty authors are from the wider creative community in Georgia, and the balance are AWC members, seven of whom were winners of a special club contest earlier this year.

The COVID-19 quarantine provided the opportunity for each contributor to reflect on the theme of “Alone Together in Georgia.” Some dealt with the pandemic directly, while others did not, but all circle the shared theme and show how these writers are finding a creative, hopeful, healing response to this crisis. The AJC Bookshelf featured our anthology here.

This diverse assembly of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction is available in both print and Kindle ebook formats from Amazon, and through orders with your local bookstore: see the store listing on Indie Bound. The cost is $19.99 for the paperback and $3.99 for the electronic version.

The net royalties and revenues will be split between The National Historic Landmark Wren’s Nest and Literacy Action, Inc., representing the literary and literacy aspects of the AWC mission.
Expose Yourself

MAKE A READ-YOUR-BOOK VIDEO

• Make a video (SIXTY SECONDS MAX!) of you reading a sample of your work. Videos can be created with a phone, tablet, or computer.

• Upload your video to AWC VIDEO This may take a few minutes.

• Once uploaded, send an email to awc.member.services@gmail.com with "AWC VIDEO" in the subject line. Let him know you have uploaded your video and include info about where your book can be purchased. Include the title and author name.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WRITING SPACE

• Take a picture of where you write. Don't clean it up, show us the natural environment where you make the magic. You can be in the shot, or not.

• Send the picture to awc.member.services@gmail.com with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.

• Keep watching the Atlanta Writers Club Facebook page and Instagram page and when you are featured, share it with the world.
WHAT MAKES THE AWC SUCH A SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING RESOURCE for our members is our willingness to assist others. Many of our members have stories and lessons to share from their writing journeys. Put those experiences in an article and submit them for consideration in an upcoming issue of the eQuill. Not only will you be helping your fellow members learn from your triumphs and mistakes, but you also will get a publishing credit.

A caution: this is NOT a chance to tout your book(s) and say, “Buy this!” We’re not offering billboard space here. Rather, this is an opportunity for you to help other writers avoid pitfalls and apply successful strategies that pertain to the craft and business of writing. Naturally, you will cite examples from your work. That’s a fine way to let people know you have books for sale; we’ll also include a brief bio with links, a head-shot and book cover(s) at the end of your article. The point is to be respectful of your readers, who want knowledge—not product placement.

If you submit, expect to get a reply with edits and comments and be willing to rewrite accordingly. Abide by the word counts given below; one reason publishers and contests reject work is that the writer can’t/won’t follow the rules. While we want to publish articles by as many of our members as possible, we also need these pieces to be uniformly high-quality and beneficial so the 6,200+ recipients will look forward to reading them month after month.

Can you submit multiple articles over time? Absolutely! We’d love to have regular contributors.

If you want to submit an article for consideration, please email the following to AWC Executive Director George Weinstein.

- Your article, with a catchy/provocative/thought-provoking title, that addresses your personal lessons about aspects of the craft and/or business of writing, in 300 words or less (can be in a Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

- A profile of you and your book(s) in 50 words or less, as well as your website and social media links (can be in the same Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

- Your head-shot and book cover image(s) in JPG or PNG format, the higher the resolution, the better

Get a Publishing Credit
The Atlanta Writers Club website offers Free Promotion. We're now featuring a page where AWC members can promote their latest publication: [SEE IT HERE](#).

Current Atlanta Writers Club members are invited to add/update their listing: please email your head-shot, book (or other publication) cover, and website URL to AWC Executive Director [George Weinstein](mailto:george.weinstein@atlantawritersclub.org).
**GREEN groups are OPEN; RED groups are FULL**

**Online #1** WAIT LIST
Fiction: Short Stories & Novels
Meets on 2nd & 4th Friday of the month via Zoom, 1pm.
Kelley Cody-Grimm EMAIL

**Online #2** WAIT LIST
Fiction only Ongoing. Please submit 100 pages for vetting. Linh Pham EMAIL

**Online #3** WAIT LIST
Self Published Authors Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7 pm J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins EMAIL

**Online #4** WAIT LIST
All Genres 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm
Gail Lash EMAIL

**Online #5** OPEN
Short Stories Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm Pat Bowen EMAIL

**Online #6** WAIT LIST
Young Adult & Middle Grade Fiction Work shared by email
Brad Scott EMAIL

**Online #7** WAIT LIST
Screenwriting (email for details) 1st & 3rd Friday of every month at 7pm via ZOOM Liz Irland EMAIL

**Online #8** OPEN
Advanced Writers in Thriller/Mystery/Suspense Meet on the 2nd-4th Thursday each month at 7:00 pm online (or in-person if participants are interested)
Bill Robbins EMAIL

**Online #9** WAIT LIST
Romance 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets Olga Jackson EMAIL

**Online #10** OPEN
Study/Critique Group open to all level of writers and all genres. This is a different kind of critique group. Next we will be reading Save the Cat! Writes a Novel. Our goal over ten weeks is to each produce a 15-page outline either for a new novel or an analysis of an existing novel or movie. We will critique each other’s plot development. The group will meet for two hours on Saturdays at 9am via Zoom. April Love-Fordham EMAIL

**Online #11** OPEN
Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, & Memoir Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Quinn Eastman EMAIL

**Online #12** OPEN
Fantasy and Science Fiction Meetings are on Sunday, 9-11 a.m. every other week, with work sent to Nathaniel ahead of time.
Nathaniel Chaney EMAIL

**Online #13** WAIT LIST
All Genres Meeting online every other Tues.
Nancy Fletcher EMAIL

**Online #14** WAIT LIST
Adult Fiction Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm
Susanne Fincher EMAIL

**Online #15** WAIT LIST
Fiction 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM
Mike Brown EMAIL

**Online #16** OPEN
All genres Meetings are virtual via Zoom every other Monday at 10:30am. Members exchange drafts twice monthly for critiquing.
Toni Bellon EMAIL

**Online #17** WAIT LIST
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm Abigail Biles EMAIL

**Online #18** OPEN
Fantasy and Science Fiction Meetings are on Sunday, 9-11 a.m. every other week, with work sent to Nathaniel ahead of time.
Nathaniel Chaney EMAIL
Membership in the Atlanta Writers Club entitles members to participate in or start their own AWC-sponsored writing and critique groups, where you and your colleagues can help each other improve your writing craft.

Above is the current list of active AWC writing/critique groups. If you have any questions about any of these groups, or if you would like to start your own group, please contact Officer Emeritus George Weinstein.
The AWC has an automated system for tracking memberships and alerting members when it's time to renew. Without your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club we would not be able to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings nor provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest.

**IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A MEMBER...**

- You will receive an e-mail from the system (showing Executive Director George Weinstein’s [e-mail address](mailto:george@awa.org)) one month before your membership expiration date.

- If you haven't renewed within a week, you will receive another e-mail every seven days, with a final e-mail one week from expiration.

- If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired.

- It is a good e-mail practice to check your spam/junk folder to see if any legitimate e-mail has been misfiled there, possibly including the email you'll receive from George prior to the expiration of your membership.
MONTHLY MEETINGS. On the third Saturday of each month our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers who cover a broad range of topics and genres, and come to us from many facets of the literary world. Our speakers include published authors, literary agents, editors, playwrights and poets, just to name a few. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.

PERIODIC WORKSHOPS. Your membership provides access to numerous outstanding writing workshops throughout the year, all of them free to members. We feature a 3-hour, members-only workshop each July and others in the spring and fall. Please see the AWC Calendar page in this newsletter for upcoming workshops.

TWICE-YEARLY ATLANTA WRITERS CONFERENCE. This is your opportunity to pitch and receive manuscript and query letter guidance from literary agents and publisher acquisitions editor. Each Atlanta Writers Conference also includes agent and editor Q & A panels, workshops on the craft and business of writing, and a reception mixer where you'll get to meet and talk with the agents, editors, and your fellow participants in a more informal setting. Details are at https://atlantawritersconference.com/

CRITIQUE GROUPS. Please see the two-page listing in this issue of the eQuill for the different critique groups available to members, both online and spread around the metro Atlanta area. Critique group participants meet regularly to read each other’s writings and recommend improvements. Don’t see a group in your area or don’t see your genre represented? Start your own and let the AWC advertise it for you.

WRITING CONTEST WITH CASH PRIZES AND PUBLICATION. Each winter/spring, we hold a writing contest for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry with cash prizes and publication in the New Southern Fugitives online zine.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL YOUR BOOKS. We are constantly seeking more opportunities for you to speak to new audiences and sell your books. From creating AWC shelves at local bookstores to sponsoring an AWC Writers’ Track and providing an authors’ booth at the Decatur Book Festival, we provide year-round occasions for our members.

FREE TICKETS TO AUTHOR EVENTS. Because of our sponsorship of the Book Festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, we receive periodic offers to attend their paid events at no charge, and we share these tickets with our members via email announcements.

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Potential members are invited to attend a first meeting as our guest.

After that, we’re sure you will want to become a member and take advantage of all the benefits that come with it. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings, or pay on line at our website using PayPal at www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

Regular membership dues are $60 per year per person. Students can join for $10 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $30 per year. Our Membership Form is on the last page of this newsletter.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC Executive Director George Weinstein.
# Membership Form

Name

Email Address

Street Address

City, State, ZIP

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**AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES**

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<th>Membership Type</th>
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<td>One-Year Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-Year Membership</td>
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<td>Lifetime Membership</td>
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**FAMILY MEMBERS (Enter names below)**

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**TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

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<tr>
<td>AWC Scholarship Fund</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

Make checks payable to **Atlanta Writers Club**

Mail your check and this form to:

Atlanta Writers Club

c/o Jerry Weiner, Treasurer

8080 Jett Ferry Road

Atlanta, GA 30350

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Yes! I would like to become an AWC Volunteer

- [ ] Monthly Meetings
- [ ] Conferences
- [ ] Book Festivals
- [ ] Other

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**Family Members**

Name

Email Address

Phone

Name

Email Address

Phone

Name

Email Address

Phone